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Topics of the Day.

THE charges which are brought against the Freedmen's Bureau by the President's investigating agents, Generals Steedman and Fullerton, found their way into print, in advance of official publication, in the letters of a New York *Herald* correspondent. The gist of them is that certain Bureau officers in North Carolina have not only used freedmen with cruelty, and imposed on them exorbitant fines for trifling offences, but have also been speculating in cotton raising, turpentine gathering, and in lumber, and have taken undue advantage of their official position in hiring laborers. To these letters General Howard replies, putting in a general but emphatic denial of the charges of cruelty, and declaring that his officers have done well, indeed have obeyed orders, in giving practical proof to the doubting and faithless that plantations can be cultivated by free labor—a truth not long since generally scouted in the Southern States. Misrepresentation of the Bureau, he says, is to be expected. General Howard, it may be added, is quite well acquainted with the opinions of General Fullerton, who was once employed by him as a subordinate. It can hardly be true that Southern men dislike the Bureau mainly because its officers hire plantations and work them. The favorite Southern scheme of a Bureau last summer was, that the Bureau officers in each district should be Southern gentlemen engaged in planting, with practical knowledge of the negro, not with merely visionary theories.

WE are every day supplied with fresh materials for judging of the state of things likely to prevail at the South after the troops are withdrawn. Within a week Mr. Bardwell, the agent for the American Missionary Association in Mississippi, was enticed into a law office in Grenada in that State, and savagely beaten. On going before the mayor to complain, he found his principal assailant had already been there, and had complained against himself, and been fined ten dollars and discharged. Lieutenant Blanding, the agent of the Bureau, assisted Mr. Bardwell with his advice, and was soon after murdered in the street. The value of laws which are administered by such worthies as the mayor of Grenada is apparent to everybody. We agree with Northern conservatives in thinking that these tigers will eventually lose their tigerishness, and become sober Christian men, decent citizens of a civilized country; but we object in the strongest manner to having any class of persons, either white or black, exposed to their claws and their gambols during the transition process. It makes little difference to men like Mr. Bardwell personally whether the ruffians of Grenada will be better or worse ten years hence than they are now. What he

wants, and what all persons who go to the South on their lawful occasions are entitled to, is protection for life, limb, property, and liberty now, and as long as the State laws withhold it we maintain that it is for the purpose of affording this protection that the Union exists. It was to secure this that the colonies revolted and the rebellion was put down, and not to provide a post-office merely and a debating hall in Washington.

MR. HENRY A. SMYTHE has at last, after much trouble and some tribulation, been confirmed in that, by politicians, most desired of all government posts, the New York Collectors'hip. The accounts of his political opinions vary—the point in doubt being the extent to which he approves of the "President's policy;" but on the most important point of all there is general agreement. He is beyond question an honest man, and has had no training in the working of party machinery, and will therefore, *if let alone*, make the New York Custom House a credit to the country, which it can hardly be said to be at present.

"HEAD CENTRE" STEPHENS has arrived in New York in search of that army of 200,000 men which he informed his friends in Paris he was about to lead back to Ireland. He has deposed Colonel O'Mahony from the post of honor and profit which he held in Union Square, and the great question of what became of the money which this last-named chief received is now undergoing examination. Eleven thousand dollars are said to be all that remains in the treasury; the remainder having been expended mostly in "secret service," the nature of which, of course, it would be improper to divulge. The most singular incident attending Stephens's advent is the tranquillity which reigns amongst the New York Aldermen and Common Councilmen.

On the 16th of April, President Johnson had a long talk with a correspondent of the *London Times*, and made a full exposition of his present opinions. A part of what he said the correspondent felt at liberty to repeat. "These men," was the term by which "he always designated the radical party" during the interview. These men could hardly be blamed for pursuing their object—the exclusion of the South—with so much eagerness; they knew that when the South came back their day was done. Their talk of philanthropy was a pretence; they wished to work on the feelings of the North. These men had been busy for months incrusting the public mind with falsehood, but the truth would prevail, and the President instanced the case of Peoria and other places where meetings had been held to endorse his policy. These men knew nothing practically of the condition of the South. The very man who drew up the civil rights bill had remained in the Senate, while he had gone to Tennessee and seen everything. They passed the bill, however, and soon the sight would be seen of a judge under arrest for obeying the law of his State. The course of these men in reference to the negro could only lead to a war of races, and then, of course, the black race would perish. Congress represented the States, but the men who voted for them individually *all* voted for him. The Freedmen's Bureau had established another form of slavery, only it was abolitionists who managed it, and got the benefit of it. A Southern man could not get negroes taken down South for him, but a Northern man in the South could. These men wanted power, while he had gone the round of all the offices, and had nothing more to wish

for. The Presidency, now, was thought a great position, but he was often in the White House twelve hours without its ever occurring to him that he was President. The correspondent thought Mr. Johnson an honest man who had no personal ends to serve. The sum and substance of Mr. Johnson's statements was, in fact, that he is himself one of the most honest, pure-minded men living, and that those who differ with him are hypocrites and traitors.

Mr. H. J. RAYMOND, as the legislative agent of a body of citizens, has been addressed in a sharp letter by one of the latter—Mr. Sinclair Tousey, in which an inventory of his Congressional services is taken, showing him to have been guilty of thirty-five sins of omission, together with others of commission. Mr. Tousey concludes by an intimation that Mr. Raymond's further employment in his present duties will not be required by those who elected him.

THE Massachusetts Senate has just defeated a bill which had passed the lower House, providing that the bounty of every State volunteer should be made equal to the highest bounty paid. No doubt many men voted for the bill because they thought the claim of the soldiers equitable. Others, it seems likely, voted for it because, not to put too fine a point on it, they were afraid that the soldiers as a class would be the political enemies of all members who did not support the measure. It is not in Massachusetts alone that there are men who seem to forget that our soldiers were American citizens before the war, and now, since the war, are American citizens again. They do not go by regiments to the support of any policy, and when they do it will be for some better reason than merely because they are regiments; it will be, we believe, because the policy commends itself to them as reasonable and just.

THE English reform bill passed a second reading, as we intimated, and not passed the House as the telegraph reported, by five majority, which is equivalent to defeat. Lord Russell, it is believed, will resign. The question now is, whether the Tories will be able to form a cabinet. They are already trying to seduce some of the present ministers into a coalition against the great enemy of all—John Bright. Lord Granville may be won over, a result for which the *Times* is probably working. Lord Stanley would, should this arrangement be successful, be the leader in the House of Commons, and there is a rumor of Disraeli going to the Lords. Mr. Lowe is entitled to the credit or discredit of having killed the reform bill by his speeches, which roused the passions of his audience into fatal activity. He characterized democracy as a system under which the poor govern the rich, and, if they please, live on them, and the cry of property in danger being once raised, Mr. Gladstone's supporters ran into the opposition like frightened sheep.

THE aspect of affairs on the European continent is very warlike. Austria, Italy, Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, are all visibly preparing their forces for a great European war. Of course, all pretend to be acting on the defensive. Italy became frightened by Austria's armaments against Prussia, and cannot help concentrating troops west of the Mincio and south of the Po. Austria is therefore afraid of an invasion of Venetia, and, in spite of her agreement to disarm, compelled to augment her army in that province. This Prussia regards as a continued menace, and she, too, pushes forward, instead of suspending, her military preparations. In this way, in spite of the loudly proclaimed repugnance of the people to plunge into a fratricidal struggle, Germany seems to be drifting into a bloody war. The Italian people, on the other hand, is eager for the conflict. On the 30th of last month, the Chamber of Deputies unanimously voted a bill authorizing the Government to incur the requisite expenditures for the defence of the State, and to provide by extraordinary means for the necessities of the treasury. The war enthusiasm pervades alike all the provinces of the Peninsula. The Italian armaments are said to be carried on a large scale. The Italian fleet is reported to have left Genoa, destination unknown. The Austrian army in Venetia is estimated at about 150,000 men, which is more than enough for defence as long as France remains neutral. The intentions of the latter power are, of course, as yet undivulged.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, May 12, 1866.

THE great feature of this week has been the passage by the House of the constitutional amendment embodying the first portion of the congressional plan of reconstruction. The heavy majority by which this measure was carried through—receiving 18 more votes than the requisite two-thirds—evinces the fact that the Union party has been toned up rather than down by the steady opposition of the President. The amendment even secured two votes which were cast against the civil rights bill, while it lost no vote which that measure received.

By an unexpected pressure of the previous question—in which fifteen of the leading Democrats joined forces with Thaddeus Stevens and the radical Republicans to force the undivided issue upon the House—a large minority of the Union members were prevented from voting against the third section, or the clause disfranchising all the late rebels until 1870. Much dissatisfaction is the result, and the question of rejecting this portion of the amendment is to be tried in the Senate. From fifty to sixty Republicans are known to be opposed to it, though from different and sometimes opposite reasons.

The Senate is still far behind the House in the active business of the session. More than a week has been consumed in mere electioneering speeches, but this, it is hoped, has at length come to an end, by the final vote yesterday, leaving the President's power of removal where it was. There is some prospect that an independent measure, curbing the use of this proscriptive power independently of the Senate, will pass disconnected from the appropriation bills.

DIARY.

May 9.—In the Senate, a House resolution appointing a commission to select a site for the New York post-office, was passed. Also, a bill to incorporate the National Theological Institute. The bill to prevent the introduction of cholera into the ports of the United States was discussed by Messrs. Chandler, Edmunds, and Sumner in its favor, and Mr. Morrill against it. The rest of the day was consumed in political speech-making.

In the House, the constitutional amendment of the committee of fifteen was defended by Messrs. McKee, Spalding, Eliot, Miller, and Bontwell, and opposed by Messrs. Shanklin and Eldridge. Mr. Raymond spoke in favor of the amendment, excepting the disfranchisement clause. The tax bill was debated and amended.

May 10.—In the Senate, House bill to authorize the coinage of five cent pieces, and the withdrawal of all fractional currency below the value of ten cents, was passed. Also, House bill imposing a duty of 25 per cent. on live animals imported from foreign countries. The bill to prevent introduction of cholera was opposed by Messrs. Grimes and Harris, and defended by Mr. Edmunds. Messrs. Nye and Doolittle made political speeches.

In the House, the constitutional amendment was opposed by Messrs. Randall, of Pennsylvania, Strouse, and Rogers, and defended by Messrs. Banks, Eckley, Longyear, Beaman, Farnsworth, Dawes, Bingham, and Stevens. It was then passed—yeas, 128; nays, 37. Adjourned to Monday, May 14.

May 11.—In the Senate, the bill to prevent introduction of cholera was opposed by Mr. Johnson, and defended by Mr. Sumner. Messrs. Howard and Cowan made political speeches. The vote was taken on the reconsidered amendment to the post office bill, withholding salary from the successors of officers removed by the President without consent of the Senate, and the amendment was lost—yeas, 16; nays, 23. Adjourned to May 14.

THE FREEDMEN.

THERE continue to be large numbers of freed people at Fortress Monroe and Hampton, but the demand for hands is reducing them. A large number of orphans are about to be transferred from the vicinity of the fort to Mr. De Mareil's farm-school near Washington.

The report that Bureau officers in North Carolina were engaged in private enterprises was probably founded on the fact that many ex-officers of the army have settled in the State and are working plantations, and that some of these officers have been appointed agents of the Bureau without pay, just as, in some localities, loyal resident planters have been appointed agents.

Gen. Fisk reports 48 schools for freedmen, in which there has been an average attendance of 8,180 scholars and 131 teachers. He states that some of the largest planters have established schools on their plantations. During the month of March, only 194 freed people received rations in Kentucky, and 225 in Tennessee, and these were old and sick and orphan children. Gen. Fisk telegraphs from Memphis that the school-houses destroyed by the riot will be rebuilt within ten days, and the schools resumed.

—A free woman of color has recovered \$4,386 damages for violation of trusts, in the Freedmen's Court at Nashville.

Notes.

LITERARY.

THE late Count Gurowski left behind him an immense mass of manuscripts, consisting of correspondence with the notabilities of this country and Europe, besides a great many unpublished memoranda of his own. It is reported that this material will be arranged and edited for the benefit of a surviving daughter.

—Before the discoveries of Grant, Speke, and Baker can produce any very practical results, it is necessary that more shall be known than is at present of the languages of the Nile countries, a fact of which the Catholic missionaries are well aware, as they are of most things which are calculated to advance the interests of their Church. They have done much in past times to make us acquainted with the languages of Central Africa, to which can now be added the Dinka language, which is spoken in the districts of the Upper Nile, from 9° to 12° on the eastern bank of the river, and from 5° to 10° on the western, embracing a region of from three to four hundred miles in extent. Of this language Herr Mitternützer, a Catholic missionary, has just published a grammar, to which he has appended a Dinka, German, and Italian dictionary.

—The report which obtained currency some time since, that Gustave Doré was making illustrations for Tennyson's "Idyls of the King," which he cannot read, by the way, in the language in which it is written, turns out to be true, we are sorry to say, for if there is any one thing which Doré cannot do, we fear it is to illustrate Tennyson properly. Browning he might, or that portion of Browning which is represented by such poems as "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," having much in common with his dark, weird, and irregular genius. What must be, must be, however, and Moxon & Co., Tennyson's publishers, are negotiating with Doré for his drawings, which are thirty in number. They are to be engraved in London, we cannot see by whom, unless it be by the Dalziel Brothers, and will probably be ready for the next holiday season.

—While the attention of his countrymen was directed towards him on account of his Edinburgh speech, and while their plaudits were ringing in his ears, Thomas Carlyle suddenly found his home turned into a house of mourning by the death of his wife. Taking her customary drive in Hyde Park on the afternoon of Saturday, April 21, her favorite dog was run over while running by the side of the brougham. Much alarmed, though the dog was not seriously injured, she lifted him into the carriage with her, and the coachman drove on; not receiving any direction from her, as he expected, he stopped the carriage, and, looking in, discovered her in a fit, as he thought, so he drove to St. George's Hospital, which was near by, but she was dead when he arrived there.

—Messrs. Strahan & Co.'s list of new works in preparation is the largest that we have lately recorded. It is as follows: "The Boyle Lectures for 1866," by Prof. E. H. Plumptre; "The Prophet Jonah: his Life and Mission Illustrated and Applied," by the Rev. Hugh Martin, M.A.; "The Philosophy of the Conditioned: Sir William Hamilton and John Stuart Mill," by the Rev. Henry Longueville Mansel, B.D., professor of philosophy, Oxford; "Thoughts and Opinions," by Matthew Browne; "Biographical Studies," by Bessie Rayner Parkes; "The Higher Education of Women," by Emily Davies; "The Letters of Eugénie de Guérin," "Dealings with the Fairies," by George MacDonald; "The Washerwoman's Foundling," by William Gilbert; "The Will-o'-the-Wisps are in Town," by Hans Christian Andersen; an illustrated edition of Jean Ingelow's "Studies for Stories," "The Romance of Charity," "Peeps at Foreign Countries," "Errands of Mercy," "Truth in Tales," "The Discoveries of the Astronomer revealing 'God's Glory in the Heavens,'" "Lives and Deeds worth Knowing About," "Chapters in Science for Boys," "Edwin's Fairing," "Æsop's Fables, with one hundred illustrations by eminent artists," a new, revised edition of "The Regular Swiss Round," by Harry Jones; and a series of popular "Treasure Books," as—"The Treasure Book of Devotional Reading," "The Treasure Book of Praise and Thanksgiving," "The Treasure Book of Consolation for the Afflicted," "The Treasure Book of Scripture Facts," "The Treasure Book of Good Men's Prayers," and "The Treasure Book of Counsel for Family Guidance." Many, probably the most, of these books will be manufactured here.

—The memory of William Henry Ireland, the Shakespeare forger, was lately revived for a moment in London at the sale of a library of Shakespeare literature, in which was a copy of Ireland's own collections relative

to his forgeries, and a manuscript of his "Confessions" in his own handwriting. The value of the latter, which could never have been much at any time, was not enhanced by the fact that several similar copies of it are known to exist in England. We have somewhere read that Ireland supported himself in the last years of his life by making manuscript copies of his forgeries, each one of which was, of course, the genuine original Simon Pure. We believe one of these copies was sold here when the library of Burton the actor came to the hammer; and we know of another which, in addition to Ireland's own balderdash, contains a number of poems in the autograph of his mother.

—A valuable collection of scarce books, mostly rare volumes of early English poetry, will soon be sold in London, in the shape of the entire stock of Joseph Lilly, with whom works of this class are a specialty, and whose admirable catalogues are well known to collectors in this country. The collection in question is probably the richest one in England, abounding, as it does, in books which are rare in the strict sense of the word. Its acquisition was the result of many years; of a bibliographical knowledge such as is not usually possessed by dealers in old books; and of a very large outlay of money. If Lilly set his heart on a book at a sale, it was almost useless to bid against him, for he would have it at any price. He purchased, for instance, a large portion of the library of the late George Daniel, among other things Daniel's unique collection of black-letter ballads, for which he paid over seven hundred pounds. His own sale will witness prices not often paid in England, and some of the highest of them, we are certain, will be from American buyers, who are rapidly drawing hither the scarcest books in the language.

—Messrs. Bell & Daldy, the successors of the late William Pickering, have in preparation a new edition of the "Aldine Poets," which are every year becoming scarcer. The series, which is rather noted for beauty than accuracy, has been revised throughout, new biographies of several of the poets having been written, and the text generally corrected by the original editions. There are to be two editions, both printed from type, a limited one on small paper, and one on large paper, of two hundred and fifty copies, one hundred of which are destined for this country. They will be sold only by subscription, Messrs. Robert H. Johnson & Co., of this city, acting as the American agents of Messrs. Bell & Daldy.

—That the copyright law is respected in England, in its most minute particulars, is certain, as has just been shown by a case in chancery. The publisher of the *Illustrated London News*, as its American purchasers know, is in the habit of issuing double, triple, and even quadruple numbers of that journal for Christmas—one feature of which, and probably the greatest, is a large chromo-lithographic print from a painting by some popular artist. These illustrations are often beautiful, the one of last Christmas, a touching realization of "The Children in the Wood," from a painting by C. Lucy, the copyright of which was purchased by the proprietor of the *London News*, being especially so. It was popular enough in England to justify a pirated copy of it, which was manufactured in Germany, and which sold largely in London. The proprietors of the *London News* discovered the fact a month or two since, and obtained an injunction against the house who circulated the pirated print, who were ordered to deliver all the unsold copies to be cancelled, to pay over the profits on those already sold, and to pay all the costs of the suit. The decision, which was certainly a righteous one, will be a good precedent against all future infringement of the law in regard to prints taken from paintings.

—Among recent deaths in England may be mentioned that of John Scandrett Harford, who was said to have been the hero of Hannah More's religious novel, "Celebs in Search of a Wife," and who was known as a writer by a "Life of Michael Angelo" and a "Life of Dr. Thomas Burgess, Bishop of Salisbury." He died at his residence, Blaize Castle, at the ripe age of eighty-one.

—The expenditures of the British Museum during the past year amounted to over half a million of dollars, viz., £101,808 14s. 4d., and the sum required for the present year is estimated at a larger figure. The number of persons, exclusive of readers, who visited its general collections during the twelve months was 369,967, and the number of readers 100,271—a daily average of 349, each reader consulting twelve books daily. Valuable acquisitions have been made to the department of Oriental, British, and mediæval antiquities and ethnography, and the Greek and Roman departments have been enriched by a number of antiquities from the Pourtales sale. Prof. Owen reports 16,700 additions to zoology, 10,079 to geology, and 3,623 to mineralogy.

SCIENTIFIC.

EXHAUSTION OF THE ENGLISH COAL-FIELDS.—The question as to the endurance of the supply of coal in Great Britain, which has been much discussed in the periodical literature of that country during the last three or four years, seems at last to have been fairly brought home to the English mind, when Mr. J. Stuart Mill declared in the House of Commons, "in a manner which riveted attention," that the exhaustion of the English coal-fields is a question not of centuries, but of generations. Mr. Mill cites the conclusion of Stanley Jevons, "that if the present rate of consumption of coal continues, three generations at the most, or very possibly a considerably shorter period, will leave no workable coal nearer to the surface than 4,000 feet in depth; and that the expense of raising it from that depth will entirely put it out of the power of the country to compete in manufactures with the richer coal-fields of other countries." Mr. Mill goes on to say: "I think, then, that if there be any one in this House, or out of it, who knows anything which will invalidate these conclusions of Mr. Jevons, it will be right of him to come forward and make it known. I have myself read various attempts to answer Mr. Jevons; but I must say that every one, admitting the truth of everything said, has only made out that our supplies will continue a few years longer than Mr. Jevons has assigned."

This question is one of the greatest possible interest to Americans, in view of the enormous extent of our undeveloped deposits of coal, from which, profiting by the experience of England, and guarding against the shameful extravagance with which her mineral wealth has been squandered through unintelligent use, we may continue to draw the sources of power for ages. It was, by the way, the keen eye of an American savant that first foresaw the coming of the English dearth. If we remember aright, it was Prof. Henry D. Rogers, of Pennsylvania, now of Glasgow, who some years since pointed out the speedy exhaustion of the British coal-fields.

There is consolation in the belief that, however much the exhaustion of its coal mines may affect the prosperity of any single country, the event will not be likely to impede materially the progress of civilization or to lessen the comforts of mankind. After the English mines have been dug out to such an extent that it would cost more to go deeper than it will to bring coal, or products resulting from the use of coal, from other countries, many English manufactures must, of course, be given up. But it is certain that long before all the coal in the world has been burned, other means of obtaining heat or power will have been developed, upon which mankind can fall back and prosper even if there is no more of the fossil carbon to be had. We should have still the scorching sun of the tropics, and every one who has once tried to escape from this merciless master will gladly see it subdued by the hand of man to be his servant, or, better, his slave; of its abundant power for good, if rightly managed, there can be no question. There is in the region of the trade-winds—in the wind itself—an amount of power always at command of which few men have any just conception; and the amount of water-power still to be had from rivers and tides is far greater than can be found in all the deposits of coal. Under the stimulus of necessity all these sources of power would be utilized by man, and to a degree now unthought of. As another source of power waiting, as it were, to be employed by mankind, there is the internal heat of the earth. Not that there is reason to share the sanguine anticipations of Buffon, who, as the story goes, had a scheme for warming the Jardin des Plantes, and even of producing there a tropical climate suitable for the disportment of monkeys, by means of hot water to be obtained by boring deep artesian wells. Yet is it not clear that the self-same power which will eventually check the working of the coal mines can itself be put to good use? The obstacle to mining which, more than anything else, will be difficult to overcome as the coal-pits are deepened, is precisely this internal heat of the earth. There are even now certain mines of metallic ores in England in the lower galleries of which the heat is so intense that work can be carried on only by naked miners, working by relays which release one another every few minutes. Here must be surely heat enough and power enough to be had for the taking.

In the course of the changes and oscillations of the civilization which is yet to be, it is in no sense unlikely, after all the coal of all inhabited countries shall have been burned up and have gone over into coral, that the New Zealander will find it to his advantage to make himself comfortable by means of heat obtained from holes in the earth which are now in process of excavation at the hands of barbarous Britons. But, not to look quite so far into the future, what a delightful summer watering-place England will soon be, when all her coal-smoke, business bustle, and pauper populations shall have disappeared, when only well-to-do people shall be found in her clean cities, and the country-places of great American merchants and manufacturers shall

cover her now desolate mining and manufacturing districts with smooth lawns and stately parks!

SHIFTINGS OF TRADE.—At the last annual meeting of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, the vice-president, Mr. Wright, made several curious and interesting statements concerning the trade of that town. It appears that during the last fifty years Birmingham has lost the custom of Italy, Spain, Belgium, and Switzerland, having been superseded in the trade with these countries by Belgium and France. France has now an amount of trade three times greater than was carried on by all England half a century ago. The first steam engines were built near Birmingham, in the factory of Boulton & Watt; but Birmingham is no longer the principal seat of this manufacture. Towards the close of the last century steel ornaments were very largely manufactured, and Mr. Wright asserts that he has in his possession pattern cards of steel ornaments from the old firm of Boulton & Watt which do not suffer by a comparison with the best work of the present day. Now the manufacture of these articles is almost entirely monopolized by the French, nearly twenty thousand persons being employed in it at Paris alone. The sword trade, also, has passed away from Birmingham to the continent of Europe. On the other hand, many new branches of industry have been introduced, and some old ones have increased in importance to a wonderful extent. The manufacture of yellow metal for sheathing vessels, of tubing for locomotive boilers, and of railway carriages, are examples.

Upon the necessity of cultivating in manufactures the art of designing and the science of chemistry, Mr. Wright makes some strenuous remarks. He insists that, in view of the kind of competition to which the Birmingham manufacturers are nowadays subjected by their Continental rivals, it has become as imperative upon all those whose works partake of the artistic element to found a studio within their establishments as it is to employ a foreman or cashier. As instances in point, the trades of the brassfounder, glass-blower, and maker of chandeliers are particularly specified. To meet this want, much has been done by founding a school of design, though it appears that out of 900 students at this institution only 170 were engaged in artistic trades. But in the matter of chemistry it would seem that Birmingham is still lamentably behind the age. Mr. Wright stated his belief "that in all Birmingham, which used annually a million pounds sterling of gold and silver, and half a million pounds in value of copper, and had nearly 400,000 inhabitants, there were not ten persons in the metal trades who studied chemistry with a view of making themselves better manufacturers." He asserted that "he had, during the last few weeks, seen metals, oxides, and bronzes, produced by the French and Germans, that had never been approached in Birmingham, and colored metals in imitation of gold which he had never been able to touch, although he had been in the trade for fifty years." He went on to relate the case of "a manufacturer [who] told his son, who was studying chemistry, that if he was not content with the trade as it was, he should have no part of it." That the condition of things here depicted will be found in the immediate future to be altogether incompatible with a successful resistance to that Continental aggression in matters of trade to which Birmingham is so much exposed, will be at once apparent to every one in any way familiar with the methods and habits of the large manufacturers of France and Germany. His townsmen have good reason to be thankful to Mr. Wright and to accept his timely warning.

THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE.—That very great benefit to mankind could not fail to be derived from any systematic, organized, and far-reaching effort to fathom the laws of disease, will be manifest to every one. Some months since a writer in *THE NATION*, commenting upon the doings of the Smithsonian Institution, alluded to the importance of concerted action in this matter, and suggested that a central office for collecting, recording, classifying, and digesting all facts relating to the laws of disease should be somewhere established. It was urged that the very important results obtained by the Smithsonian Institution in the field of meteorology might be taken as an earnest of what could be accomplished if an organization similar to that of the Smithsonian, and methods of research analogous to those adopted by that institution, were applied to the study of epidemic diseases.

There is great force in these suggestions. No country is more interested than our own in such investigations. Vast tracts of our territory are cursed with fever and ague; yellow fever visits many of our ports almost every year; cholera and small-pox periodically alarm our crowded populations. Every year a large amount of valuable evidence is accumulated concerning the history of diseases, their origin and development, the manner in which they are carried, or in which they move from one place to another, the modes in which they are communicated, restricted, prevented, or cured. But this mass of information is presented in a diffused and, as it were, diluted form. As matters now stand, no one observer can see anything like the

whole of this evidence: each person obtaining, at the best, but a partial, one-sided view of the subject. There is needed some common centre into which each separate witness can throw, as into the focus of a glass, any ray of light which may have fallen unto him.

As the sources of force, by virtue of which the desired office or bureau should be established and maintained, we of course look, after the republican manner, mainly either to the united pecuniary contributions of physicians, or to moneys obtained at the instigation of physicians, or men of science, from the wealthy and philanthropic. But in Europe they do, or seek to do, these things in a different way. The subject has recently come up for discussion in England, as we have noticed since reading the article in *THE NATION* already referred to, and it is curious to see the expectation of help from the Government which animates those who have taken part in the discussion, as well as the manner in which this help is demanded, almost as if it were of the nature of a right. *The Medical Times and Gazette*, one of the leading journals in its department, says: "Let us then, by all means, have royal commissioners to help us in our investigations into disease; we shall gladly accept and avail ourselves of their aid. But is this all the assistance that medicine has a right to expect from a wealthy and enlightened Government? We think not!" "A Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Royal College of Physicians," in his pamphlet "On the Scientific Investigation of Disease in Animals and Man," suggests that Government ought to make grants of money annually for the scientific investigation of disease. He admits that of a great many grants made few would be productive of useful results, but holds that if, out of twenty men set to work, only one produced anything of value, this one success would abundantly justify the system, and he contrasts the case with that of experiments upon guns and ships, where vast sums of money are expended upon mere failures. The writer laments that "there is not yet a hospital in London in which there are efficient means for conducting scientific enquiries into the nature of disease." The remark may well be taken as a reproach in view of the enormous endowments of some of the metropolitan hospitals. However much we may disagree with this writer in the choice of methods, it must be admitted that any agitation of the subject is likely to be productive of good.

ECCE HOMO.*

THE title of this little book led us to expect a presentation to the public of the historical Jesus. It is the avowed purpose of the author to make such a presentation. He has undertaken, as he says in his preface, "to trace his biography from point to point, and accept those conclusions about him not which church doctors, or even apostles, have sealed with their authority, but which the facts themselves, critically weighed, appear to warrant."

Now, if there is anything the author has not done, it is precisely this. His book is in no sense a biography—a sketch of the life of Jesus. The facts of the gospel narratives do not seem to have been critically weighed; the gospel narratives do not seem to have been critically studied. There is no indication that the writer, though evidently a very accomplished and able man, is in the least acquainted with the critical literature of the New Testament, or has noticed even the broadest distinctions between the four Evangelists. Not only does he fail to sift, classify, digest, and arrange the facts, he scarcely notices the facts. No incidents, or even events, in the life of Jesus are detailed. There is no historical sequence, no movement, no crisis, no career, no issue, no culmination, no catastrophe. There is no scenery, and there are no personages. The Christ himself is presented as a personage, and a most extraordinary one; such a one as no church doctors or apostles ever conceived. His image is drawn with great firmness and power, and stands out in colossal proportions, as that of a social reformer and statesman strangely endowed, wonderfully gifted, and marvellously inspired; a man historically linked with his age, the product of his age, in fact, and yet possessed of a genius that made him a man for all ages. But this image of the Christ is projected from the author's individual mind, and is simply illustrated by the way by the evangelical records. And the records get twisted a good deal in the process. For instance, he illustrates the importance which Jesus attached to the initiatory rite of baptism—an importance, we may say, that is assumed in defiance of the record—by the passage with Nicodemus. The "ruler among the Jews," he tells us, was ready to comply with Christ's demand of personal homage and submission, but wished to be excused from making a public avowal of it. He thought he could push the movement among the influential classes, and become a useful friend in the metropolis. If Christ would excuse him from publicly undergoing the rite of baptism,

he believed he could cautiously dispose the Pharisaic sect to a coalition with Christ, on the ground of their common national and theocratic feeling; while, on the other hand, by submitting to baptism he would lose his influence with the authorities, and with it "all his power of becoming a nursing father to the infant church." These overtures the Christ summarily rejected, "by an abrupt declaration that there was no way into the theocracy but through baptism!" Again, speaking of the effect of personal influence in creating virtuous impulses, he cites the story of the woman taken in adultery. Jesus, he says, stooped down and wrote on the ground because he was so overcome by a sense of shame that he could not but hide his face. When at last he raised his head for an instant, it was his flushed, maidenly cheeks, not his scathing sarcasm, that sent the accusers away. The volume abounds in similar arbitrary constructions.

We have said that the writer uses the gospel records merely for the purpose of illustrating the conception of Christ which he has fashioned by his own thought. He takes greater liberties than this. He sets aside the record altogether, even where its statements are the most conspicuous and unqualified. For their most overwhelming incidents he seems to substitute incidents of his own. We think we are justified in saying this by a single sentence, which must have been overlooked by those who have given such immoderate praise to this book not only on the score of its ability, but on the score of its historical conservatism. On page 119 we read: "This monarchy (of Jesus) was essentially despotic, and might, in spite of the goodness of the sovereign, have had some mischievous consequences if he had remained too long among his subjects, and if his dictation had descended too much into particulars. But he shunned the details of administration, and assumed only the higher functions of an heroic monarch, those of organization and legislation. And when these were sufficiently discharged, when his whole mind and will had expressed itself in precept and signed itself for ever in transcendent deeds, he withdrew to a secret post of observation, from whence he visited his people for the future only in refreshing inspirations and great acts of providential justice." We are at a loss to understand the meaning of this paragraph, if it be not that Jesus, instead of dying and leaving the world as the gospels say, revived after a seeming death and disappeared to pass the rest of his days as a secluded spectator of the work which his followers took up and continued. This is one of the solutions suggested by the rationalists to escape from the resurrection and ascension, and though it is one of the most arbitrary, the author seems to adopt it.

In a word, this book is not a biography, but a treatise, or rather an essay, on the work of the Christ. As such it is remarkable for its originality and its power. Christ, he says, formed one plan and executed it. This plan was to establish a universal monarchy: "to restore the theocracy as it had been in the time of David, with a visible monarch at its head, and that monarch himself." It was not his aim to reproduce the past—he was too wise for that; his notion of monarchy was different from David's: his ideal of a king was nobler than his countrymen entertained; but the royalty was substantial, and the authority absolute. "He declined to command armies, or preside in law courts; but higher works, such as imply equal control over the wills of men, the very works for which the nation chiefly hymned their Jehovah, he undertook in his name to do. He undertook to be the Father of an everlasting state, and the Legislator of a world-wide society." He assumed to be a person of transcendent greatness; he laid men under a personal obligation of loyalty; and on the ground of this loyalty he proceeded to form them into a society, and to promulgate an elaborate legislation, authoritatively delivered. In doing this he assumed the part of a Moses, and, "as he had no civil judges to enforce his legislation, he represented his unfaithful servants as being liable to prosecution before the tribunals of the invisible world." The details of this legislation are described in the twenty-four chapters which make up the second and larger part of this volume. We cannot touch on them now, but we can say honestly that his remarks on the Christian Republic, on the Christian as a Law to himself, on the Enthusiasm of Humanity or Positive Morality, and the Law of Philanthropy, Edification, Mercy, Resentment, and Forgiveness, show profound reflection and suggest grave thought. We meet with unwarrantable assumptions, as they seem to us, with forced interpretations, overstrained deductions, curious misconceptions; but we find also wise discrimination, penetrating sagacity, singular boldness, and a noble spirit. He is no mere moralist, no worshipper of the letter, even of the New Testament letter. He fully appreciates the difference between the age of Jesus and our own.

We are advanced by eighteen hundred years, he says, beyond the apostolic generation. "All the narrowing influences of that generation have ceased to operate." "The New Testament is not the Christian law; the precepts of apostles, the special commands of Christ, are not the Christian law. To make them such is to throw the Church back into that legal

* "Ecce Homo: A Survey of the Life and Work of Jesus Christ." Boston: Roberts Brothers, 12mo.

system from which Christ would have set it free. The Christian law is the spirit of Christ, that enthusiasm for humanity which he declared to be the source from which all right action flows. What it dictates and that alone is law for the Christian." Do the cautious say it is not safe to follow a mere enthusiasm? "If Christ is to be believed, it is not safe to follow anything else." Do some say that what is utterly absent from the New Testament cannot possibly be an important part of Christianity? "That is a great mistake, arising from a wide-spread paralysis of true Christian feeling in the modern Church."

The "Ecce Homo" has been ascribed to very high authorship. The name of Mr. William E. Gladstone has been mentioned in connection with it, on what authority we cannot tell. In point of intellectual ability it is worthy of any authorship. However defective and even perverse it may be in some particulars, it deserves to rank with the most remarkable books of this generation. It should be added that this volume contains only a portion of the author's studies on his general theme. Another volume on "Christ as the Creator of Modern Theology and Religion" is in preparation.

THE USURY LAWS.*

HALF Mr. Murray's volume is devoted to a sketch of the history of usury, or rather of the ideas regarding it, in vogue from the earliest ages to our own day. This forms, however, only an introduction to the latter half, which is devoted to an examination of the usury laws actually in force in the various States of the Union, and of the principles which govern the decision of cases in which these laws come into conflict. The chapter on the policy of the usury laws and their effect on commerce is composed mainly of a summing up of Bentham's famous essay, whose opinions our author shares.

The work may be useful even to lawyers, and by that great mass of readers whose information on economical questions comes mainly from the newspapers will be found both entertaining and instructive. Mr. Murray only claims for the book the merit of a good compilation, and he disarms criticism by an apology in his preface for the only feature of it with which fault can fairly be found, and that is the style, which is generally stiff and in some places clumsy.

We doubt whether his arguments against the usury laws will produce much impression on the class to whose influence these laws now in most States owe their existence—the farmers. This class in nearly every State holds the legislation in its hands, and for a variety of reasons cannot easily be brought to place money in the category to which modern economists assign it—a commodity, like any other. They are not in the habit of dealing in it as bankers and brokers and merchants are, and it has to them one characteristic which separates it in their eyes from all other articles of commerce, in being the only one which it is impossible to go without. Then again, most farmers are, in a certain sense, needy. They seldom possess much money. The rapidity with which the country has been settled, and the wide, and in many ways mischievous, diffusion over its surface which the agricultural population has undergone, leave vast numbers of them in possession of great crops, but without a market for them. The result is a very frequent recurrence of seasons of depression, when loans of money are an absolute necessity, and to propose to them to let money dealers at such crises have full swing amongst them would at present be useless. The "stay laws" so frequently resorted to in the West and South to retard the recovery of debts when due, but on which Mr. Murray has not touched, are in reality usury laws in their worst shape, being simply attempts to make the necessities or convenience of one of the parties to a bargain regulate the terms of the bargain.

THE GALAXY.

THE second number of the new magazine is a considerable improvement on the first, though we trust it is not yet by any means what it is to be. "The Claverings," of course, pursue the jog-trot tenor of their way. Rose Terry contributes an odd little Spanish song, "In the Hammock." The "March of the Cholera" is padding, containing nothing, except the preliminary reflections upon the pestilence, at all new. Professor Blot furnishes his second article on the "Art of Dining," but it hardly comes up to our expectations. On questions of cookery pure and simple his authority is not to be disputed, although he calls cookery a science, which he would not do if his ideas as to what science means were as clear as they might be; but on

some points touching the digestion we shall venture to differ with him, by observing that it is not possible to lay down any rule as to the digestibility of things, constitutions differ so widely. Some people find nothing lighter or more grateful than cucumbers; to others they are little short of fatal. Therefore, the beverage which the professor recommends after soup and during the greater part of the dinner, composed of three parts water and one part wine, will probably not suit everybody. Whatever may be "known" as to the action of alcohol on the stomach, there are unquestionably large numbers of persons who find undiluted light wine the best dinner drink of all. "Archie Lovell" makes some progress. General Cluseret contributes a very interesting, but somewhat stilted, account of Victor Hugo's home at Guernsey. "Miss Clare" is another tale, but we must leave the lovers of fiction to find out what it is all about. The heavy article of the number is Miss Cobbe's "Fallacies of Memory," which is devoted to showing the utter untrustworthiness of all our records and of all our recollections of the past. The conclusion would be painful if it were not already tolerably familiar, and if the mass of mankind were not just as well pleased with fiction as with fact. "The Galaxy" must now "keep pegging away," as Mr. Lincoln said, and we shall only know six months hence what impression it has made.

Leighton Court. A Country-House Story. Henry Kingsley. (Ticknor & Fields, Boston.)—The scene of this brief story is an English country-house, and the actors are certain of the Devonshire nobility and gentry. Their business is a little flirtation, a good deal of love, with a view of matrimony, and the joining together of two respectable incomes; a little love that, followed far enough, may lead to the divorce court and damages; and, of course, some fox-hunting in a difficult country. In the background may be seen, by glimpses, both Houses of Parliament and the Indian mutiny. There is not an incident that has not long been worn threadbare, and all the characters are recognized as old acquaintances, unless we except Sir Harry, a madman, who dies of *angina pectoris*, after having been of the greatest service in tangling and disentangling the plot. The book was written in a hurry, and the author has made a novel not so ambitiously bad as the last one he wrote. He is slangy still, and too knowing, and he never was a thinker, and his effects do not spring from his causes any more than in old times, and his wit is only levity, and his humor an imitation that makes us uncertain whether to wish or not to wish for the originals of such copies; and it is true that one gets up from this, as from other Kingsley books, feeling that it is his blood and not his brain which the novelist has been addressing, or, at any rate, which has responded. But still the reader has much to be thankful for. We are spared all the cant of moral nobility, all the counterfeit fine sentiments that made us laugh a disgusted laugh over those Hilarys and Burtons. And the author's haste was not so great that he did not once in a while stay for a moment to exercise his old power. Not seldom he gives us a landscape, badly drawn, perhaps, but so that we feel the very air and see the sky and the green hills, the river, the ploughed land, and the full ditch.

The Field and Garden Vegetables of America. By Fearing Burr, Jr. (J. E. Tilton & Co., Boston.)—This volume is to the gardener what a manual of botany is to the botanist. It professes no more than to be "a manual or guide to assist in the identification and selection of varieties, rather than a treatise on cultivation." It contains short descriptions of over a thousand varieties of useful vegetables, with some notice of the proper soil and cultivation of the more important. The descriptions are in plain language, terse, and as satisfactory as the case will admit of. The preparation of such a work presents peculiar difficulties. Varieties are often separated by very slight differences, or are inconsistent in their characters, or depend on local conditions, or are determined by such characters as can only be learned by actual observation, and cannot be well described in language; so that any attempt at description must be unsatisfactory. In this work the attempt has been unusually successful, and many of the more important varieties are illustrated by engravings from characteristic drawings by Sprague, who is, perhaps, the most successful as well as most eminent botanical draughtsman in this country. We could wish that these illustrations were more numerous, while some of the descriptions of varieties little cultivated or used might have been omitted without injuring the book. The plants are classified according to their uses, and while the botanical names are given, they are subordinate to the common English ones. The book is beautifully printed, is furnished with a good index, and is a valuable addition to our horticultural literature.

The Masquerade, and other Poems. By John Godfrey Saxe. (Boston: Ticknor & Fields.)—It is in one of Miss Edgeworth's novels, we believe, that a boy is warned of the great danger of setting up for a wit. In his devotion to small jokes, his mentor informs him, he will most likely fritter away his mind and at last discover that in "learning to trifle well" he has lost solidity of thought and depth of sentiment; like the grasshopper, while he does nothing but chirp, winter will overtake him, and be unprovided for. There are some jesting books which only illustrate this truism and tell melancholy truths of the jester; in which we get some notes of the summer merriment and more of the faint chirping of winter; in which the nipped sentimentality of the minor poet is seen side by side with the forced shallow wit that fostered its growth and did so much to prevent the growth of better things. In this book there is the facility of versification which is given by long practice, and there are some jokes that are very fair, and more that are rather pointless; one of the best is the author's way of winding up funny

* "The History of Usury from the Earliest Period to the Present Time, together with a Brief Statement of General Principles concerning the Conflict of the Laws in different States and Countries, and an Examination into the policy of Laws on Usury, and their Effect on Commerce." By J. B. C. Murray. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1866.

poems with morals, such as "Rely on yourself:" "Give a wide berth to a meddlesome man," etc. Perhaps the best piece in the book is "A mourner à la mode," and the poorest "Othello the Moor."

The Poetical Works of Thomas Hood. (G. P. Putnam: Hurd & Houghton, New York.)—This is a people's edition of the works of a very different genius from the foregoing. He never had the talent of coining his powers into a balance at his banker's, and the lot fell upon him of making jokes from day to day in order to get the day's dinner. It may have been because such a life was of necessity and not of choice that it produced in his case no worse effect upon his mind and soul. At any rate, after all his hard-working triviality and frivolity in the way of business, he was still good enough and great enough to utter such pleas for human misery as the "Bridge of Sighs" and the "Song of the Shirt," and to make a poem so delicate and so purely poetical as the "Fair Inez." This glory of being not only a poet but also a soldier in the great cause of humanity, he shares with another great wit who not long since was living. But it was in Heine's nature to break his heart because victory declared against him, and in Hood's rather because there was need of war. After his rare poetic power, his tender-heartedness and sweetness of temper are his chief charms, and the people do not forget these in reading even Hood's puns. There are two volumes in one in this edition, which makes the book seem rather thick in the hand, but in paper and print it is well adapted for its designated use.

The Works of the Rt. Hon. Edmund Burke. Revised edition. Vol. VI. (Little, Brown & Co., Boston.)—Of all the contents of the present volume of this excellent edition, the sketch of a negro code is the most curious for present study. It was originally devised by Burke in 1780, and was written out in its present shape for the Hon. Henry Dundas in 1792. It was one of the many futile attempts to cushion the imminent fall of a most atrocious traffic, and, later, of the system which fed it. Neither the abolitionists nor the West India planters were placated by them, and there was no recourse but to contend till one or other of the parties succumbed.

PARIS GOSSIP.

PARIS, April 27, 1866.

THE absurdities of the present style of dress among the least ugly half of creation were palpably brought out at last Sunday's races, the last of "the season." One fine lady wore an underskirt of bright pink silk, lavishly trimmed with *ruches* of black taffetas, the upper skirt, of black silk, entirely without folds, being as lavishly trimmed with pink. The head-dress which surmounted this rather striking pyramid (for it seems absurd to apply the word "bonnet" to anything, so infinitesimal) consisted of a single vine-leaf of pink silk, laid flat on the top of the head, the said vine-leaf being edged with glass pendants, imitating dew-drops, and kept in its place by a pair of pink strings. Another rather striking toilette was of mauve silk, trimmed with cherry-colored velvet, the head-dress consisting of a few twigs twisted together and covered with the leaves, flowers, and fruit of the cherry-tree, and tied on, of course, with the orthodox pair of strings, the only feature now remaining of the "bonnet" of other days. The *coiffure* of another lady consisted of a "flat" of lilies of the valley, put on the summit of the head, and thence depending in long wreaths over the shoulders and half way down the back.

The last week has been crowded with soirées, concerts, and balls; one of the most brilliant being the magnificent entertainment given by the rich and pomp-loving old Duke de Laroche-foucauld, who has just completed the repairing and beautifying of his grand old historic mansion, in the Rue de Varannes, and on this occasion exhibited to the *élite* of the Faubourg St. Germain the grandeur of his famous suite of drawing-rooms in the style of Louis XIV. The invitations had been issued for midnight, to allow the guests to dispose of the earlier part of the evening elsewhere, and the ladies were invited to wear powder. As the style of dress now in vogue is very similar to that worn at the French court in the days of the "Grand Monarque," the addition of powder completed the illusion, and gave to the salons in question almost the air of a *fête* of two hundred years ago. The grounds, brilliantly illuminated, offered the most charming perspectives through the wide, open windows; the terrace outside was bordered with a profusion of flowers. At four in the morning a splendid supper was served in the conservatory, whose walls were hidden by a hedge of magnificent camellias in full bloom. Green peas, asparagus, strawberries, cherries, and grapes figured in profusion on the tables, amidst the indescribable creations of artistic French cookery and the finest nectar of the well-stocked ducal cellar. Dancing was resumed after supper, and was kept up with unflagging spirit until eight o'clock.

The musical world is awaiting with much interest the appearance of Mercadante's new opera, "Virginia," about to be produced at Naples, whence it will be imported into this supreme "centre" of art judgment. Patti is going to London with a galaxy of other stars. Rossini has given two *soirées musicales* that have sent his guests into raptures; the first was ostensibly

of Italian music, the second of French; at both various exquisite new compositions of his own were sung amidst the enthusiastic plaudits of all present, which plaudits the public is, unfortunately, not able to echo, the immortal *musettes* obstinately persisting in his thirty years' refusal to allow any new creations of his to be published.

Monsieur N. G. Bach, great grandson of the celebrated composer Sebastian Bach, one of the professors of the Paris Conservatoire, and for forty years past one of the most esteemed pianists of the capital, is just bringing out, under the auspices of Legoux, the well-known music publisher of the Boulevard Poissonnière, a song and a saraband which, according to his account of the matter, have come into his possession in the following singular manner:

According to this gentleman's statement, his son, M. Leon Bach, having discovered an old spinette, admirably carved, bought it and presented it to his father on the 4th of last May. After making a long examination of this interesting piece of antiquity, the father discovered on a board in the interior of the instrument an inscription stating that it was made at Rome, in April, 1564. He passed part of the day in contemplation of his precious spinette; he thought of it as he went to bed, and, having fallen asleep, he had the following dream: He thought that a man stood beside his bed, with a long beard, shoes rounded at the toes, and with large bows of ribbon at the instep; large, full breeches, a doublet with slashed sleeves, stiff collar, and a hat with pointed crown and broad brim. This person bowed to the musician, and said, "The spinette you possess belonged to me. It frequently served me to entertain my master, King Henry III. When he was young he composed an air with words which he was fond of singing, and which I frequently played to him. This air and these words he had composed in memory of a young lady that he once met in a hunt and of whom he became deeply enamored. She was taken away, and it is said that she was poisoned, and that the king was deeply distressed at her disappearance. Whenever he was sad he hummed this song, and then, to divert his mind, I played on my spinette a saraband of my composition, which he much loved. Thus I came to confound together these two pieces, for I was continually playing them one after the other." The speaker then appeared to approach the spinette, played a few notes by way of prelude, and sang the air with so much pathos and expression that M. Bach awoke in tears. He lit a candle, and looked at his watch; it was just two o'clock. He soon fell asleep again; but what was his astonishment, on awakening in the morning, to find on his bed a page of music-paper covered with notes, microscopically small and very fine writing. Being very near sighted, he had great difficulty in deciphering them, even with the aid of his eye-glass.

He then tried the air on the spinette. The song, the words, and the saraband were exactly as he had heard them in his dream. M. Bach is no somnambulist and has never written a verse in his life. The song consists of three stanzas and a refrain, sweet, plaintive, and, in turn of expression as in orthography, exactly in accordance with the style in vogue in the reign of Henri III. The melody is simple, *admirable*, penetrating; and the style in which the music is written is as ancient as that of the spelling. The notes are of a different form from those of the present day, and the air is written in a different key from the bass, though intended for a man's voice. The three verses tell how the singer, "during the chase," seeing his lady love for the first time, thought he had seen an angel, and became the happiest of kings; how he would give "all his kingdom" to see her again for one instant; how, "sad and cloistered," his "pauvre belle" was far from him in her last days; and how, while "she no longer feels her cruel sorrow," he, "alas! suffers always." It is known that Henri III. had a great passion for Marie of Clèves, Marquise d'Isles, who died in a convent in the flower of her age, on the 15th October, 1574. Was she the "pauvre belle, triste et cloîtrée," mentioned in these verses? It is also known that an Italian musician named Baltazarini went to France at that epoch, and became a favorite with the king. Did the spinette belong to Baltazarini? and was this the mysterious visitor who brought the song and the saraband to M. Bach?

It seems that Mlle Titiens, on her passage to Berlin and Hamburg, was induced to play four nights at Cologne. Though the prices were trebled the opera was crowded to suffocation, and numbers were unable to obtain admission. Many of those who were thus disappointed presented themselves at her hotel with a petition signed by over 7,000 persons, beautifully engrossed on parchment, together with a magnificent silver-gilt crown bearing the arms of Créfeld, Düsseldorf, Hanover, Minden, Essen, etc., begging her to visit each town for one evening only on her own terms. This, being engaged in London, she has been obliged to decline. At Cologne and Hamburg the great songstress has one-half of the total receipts, amounting frequently to 5,000 francs per night.

Articles on any of the subjects usually discussed in this journal will be received from any quarter. If used, they will be liberally paid for; if rejected, they will be returned to the writers on the receipt of the requisite amount of postage stamps.

All Communications which pertain to the literary management of THE NATION should be addressed to the Editor.

THE MORAL OF THE MEMPHIS RIOTS.

THERE was one feature of the late riot at Memphis which is worthy of attention from its bearings upon the political status of the negroes. It appears by the more recent and trustworthy accounts of the affair that it began in an unsuccessful attempt made by the police to put a stop to the disorderly conduct of some negro soldiers. The row which followed was taken up by the citizens at large, and when renewed in the afternoon, after a short pause, it took the form of a general massacre of such of the colored population as showed themselves in the streets. This part of the tragely appears to have been inconceivably brutal, but its brutality was, after all, not the most remarkable thing about it. Its most novel and most striking incident was, that the police headed the butchery, and roved round the town either in company with the white mob or singly, and occupied themselves in shooting down every colored person, of whatever sex, of whom they got a glimpse. In the half-organized attack made on the fort, also, the police were the principal assailants.

We are not going to furbish this occurrence up into an argument for the wholesale disfranchisement of the South, or for any greater severities against her white population than we are now inflicting upon them. Anybody who expects Southern whites and blacks to settle down into their true and just relations to each other without breaking one another's heads a good deal, knows little either of history or human nature. There will prevail at the South for a long time to come a good deal of envy, hatred, and malice towards the colored population, and they will show themselves in riots and outrages more or less flagrant. What was peculiar about the Memphis riot was that the officers of the law, the very persons on whom the colored population will have to rely for protection as soon as the troops are withdrawn, took a leading part in it, and we have very little doubt that, were any similar outburst of popular prejudice to take place to-morrow in any other town in the South, the local police, if they interfered at all, would interfere in the same way. "They would stand by their race," as Mr. James T. Brady once said, in a speech before the war, when Northern Democrats were trembling lest the Southern blacks should break loose, come North, and eat them all up. The negro would, when pursued by a mob, avoid "the guardians of the public peace" as vigilantly as he would any of the pack at his heels. We grant that under the State law and under the Federal law he would have his remedy against all his assailants. He could sue them either civilly or criminally, or both, for assault and battery, or assault and false imprisonment, or for a felonious assault. If his house was burnt or his furniture damaged by a popular rising, he could sue the county for damages. He might get a verdict, and he might not. We will suppose that he would; but which of us would live in any community where this was our main reliance for protection against mob violence? Which of us would keep our families in a town in which not only we were objects of popular odium, but in which, if an attempt were made to mob us, we might expect to see the policeman who patrolled our street taking the first pop at us with his revolver, or the sheriff of the county heading a party charged with the duty of ramming in our front door?

When the Freedmen's Bureau bill and the civil rights bill were first talked of, one of the strongest arguments used against them by their opponents was that they were unnecessary, that "the laws of political economy" would eventually secure protection for the negroes from their white neighbors themselves without any interference on the part of the Federal Government. No matter how much their old masters might dislike them, the necessity of employing them, of relying on them for prosperity and comfort, would sooner or later make the relations of the two races, if not cordial, at least amicable. The negro had only to wait a little and all would be right by-and-by. We always thought there was something in this argument, but we nevertheless always considered it a most ridiculous argument when addressed to the blacks

themselves. It was substantially this: "Your white neighbors are at present greatly incensed against you. They consider you the cause of all their troubles, and look upon themselves as having been robbed of your services. Therefore, for some time to come, they will probably maltreat you a good deal. They will most likely rob and murder you frequently; and more frequently they will flog you and deny you justice in the courts. Your house will, probably, be burnt now and then, and you will be driven from one part of the country to the other by mobs. But you must not mind this. They will get over their feelings toward you after a while, and get used to seeing you free, and then they will most likely let you alone, or at least not annoy you so much. The laws of political economy are all working for you, and you know whenever you want to travel abroad you can have a United States passport. In the meantime pay your taxes regularly, and put your trust in Providence. The Federal Government can do nothing else for you." The negro might very naturally reply that he cared nothing for the laws of political economy; that what he wanted was the protection of the Government to which he paid his taxes and owed his allegiance; that very likely the whites would get used to him after a while and let him alone, and, whenever that time came, of course he would not need any protection. But that it is precisely at those periods of a man's life when his neighbors do not like him, and want to attack him, that governments and police are needed, and that for any government to announce that it could do nothing at these crises was to destroy its sole claim on his fidelity.

This gap has been stopped by the civil rights bill. It forces the State either to protect its own colored population or let the Federal authorities do it. But the riot at Memphis reveals another gap which no legislative enactment can stop that does not in some way make the officers of the law responsible to those for whose protection they are appointed. We may rely upon it that the municipal authorities at Memphis would take good care that their police did not head anti-negro mobs, if negro opinion were of the slightest importance at election time. And officers of the law, whether State or Federal, will never, in our opinion, in any part of the South feel as they ought to feel, that the colored population are under the law, as long as that population has nothing to do with their appointment. We are here putting forward no new doctrine. There is not a State in the Union which does not recognize it in its constitution. In none of them is a right of action considered sufficient for a man's security; in none of them is any white citizen asked to rely on the conscientiousness of the governor, or of the mayor, or of the sheriff for protection against fraud or violence. Each man is in all of them armed with the right to help to turn the governor, or sheriff, or mayor, out of office if he does not do his duty. It may be said that resident aliens and women do not possess this right, and yet enjoy reasonable security. But if the population hated aliens as in China or Japan, or as the negroes are hated at the South, they would not enjoy reasonable security without the protection of their own governments, and it is happily still the custom for white men to consider to some extent, at least, the griefs and wrongs of white women as their own.

In a country in which officers are not chosen by the popular vote the idea of responsibility to the public is, of course, weak. Each official thinks of what his superior will say rather than of what the community will say, and the exclusion of any particular class from the franchise there of course makes little, if any, difference, in official eyes, between its claims to protection and those of voters. But our officials are all accustomed by long usage to consider themselves the servants of the voting population, and to look to it for reward and punishment, and the exclusion of a man from its ranks, therefore, inevitably weakens the official respect for his rights.

What has happened at Memphis is but a fair sample of scenes which we may often expect to witness at the South as soon as the Federal troops cease to do police duty. In our opinion nobody will suffer so little from these outrages as the negroes themselves. The killing of a few men or the sacking of a few houses is, after all, comparatively a small matter; but the spectacle of the officers of the law either looking quietly on at such outrages, or aiding and abetting in them, is a great matter. It was the utter loss of all respect for individual rights which

pro-slavery mobs were allowed to work at the South before the rebellion which made the rebellion possible, and there is no part of the Union which is not concerned now in having every man everywhere armed with every means of protecting himself with which legislation can supply him.

OUR SYSTEM OF LEGISLATION.

THE Legislature of this State, at its last session, hastily passed an act imposing a tax of one-half to one per cent. upon the gross amount of all brokers and auctioneers' sales of foreign merchandise. Nobody among the classes affected by this enactment heard or suspected of the pendency of any such measure until it had passed into a law, and the Legislature had adjourned. There is not the least reason to doubt that the Legislature passed the bill, and the governor signed it, without at all comprehending its effect. There is a very general and very absurd prejudice against brokers, which is fostered by the discreditable attacks of the press upon "middlemen" and "speculators," and when a draft of this bill was sent up to Albany, as it undoubtedly was by some outsider, the honorable member to whom it was entrusted congratulated himself, we dare say, upon the happy thought of making these obnoxious classes pay handsomely towards the expenses of the State. Such a trifle as three-quarters of one per cent. would surely not be felt by these men, rolling in wealth, as brokers are universally supposed to be. Probably the only doubt that troubled the minds of the majority was, whether they were justified in making the tax so small.

Yet the fact is, that no broker receives more than one per cent. on his sales, while the heaviest business is done for one-half, and a very large business at one-quarter of one per cent. This law, therefore, is equivalent to an income tax of from fifty to three hundred per cent. on the *gross receipts* of brokers in foreign merchandise. This is not taxation—it is confiscation.

Only one thing was left for the Legislature to do, in order that it might reach the climax of absurdity, and that thing was done, if we may rely upon the version of the law which we have seen. The bill did not state, it is said, the object to which the tax is to be applied, and is, therefore, unconstitutional. The Legislature has thus obtained for itself all the discredit of passing an odious measure without really succeeding in raising a penny of income for the State.

We leave to other journals the office of denouncing the members of the Legislature for their individual action, and of insinuating that their motives were corrupt. We do not ourselves place the least faith in such charges. There is no reason to believe that a single member of the Legislature fully comprehended the nature and consequences of the bill. If the minority had done so, they would surely have notified some of the New York brokers of its character. It is almost impossible to conceive of any corrupt motive for the passage of such a measure, applying, as it does, to all dealers of a certain class. The idea, broached in a certain paper which kept two correspondents at Albany last winter, neither of whom had brains enough to expose this bill before its passage, that Boston or Philadelphia merchants devised it as a means for ruining the trade of this city, is too ridiculous to need comment. Men of business do not go into such long-headed schemes of villainy in the vague hope of picking up a few grains of prosperity out of their neighbors' ruin.

The obvious fact is, that this gigantic blunder, involving a tax of millions of dollars, is the fruit of ignorance and haste. The moral to be drawn from it is, that our system of legislation needs reform, so as to secure to it those elements of accuracy, forethought, and deliberation which it now lacks altogether. And the first requisite to such a reform appears to us to be the establishment of a permanent council of legislation, as suggested by John Stuart Mill and others.

This council should, of course, have no legislative powers. It should not have the right of originating or rejecting laws. But every project of a law should be referred to it to be put into proper shape. It should report every measure back to the legislature, reduced to simple and grammatical language, conformed to a uniform standard of legislative style. It should suggest to the legislature the superfluity of clauses which reiterate old law, and the objectionableness of clauses which contravene natural justice; but should nevertheless report them back for the final action of the legislature. It should prepare and

publish daily, through the session, an abstract of the measures introduced. The legislature should not be allowed to pass any measure without first submitting it to this council, although it should have power to require a report by a certain day.

This council being permanent, the legislature might, and doubtless often would, refer to it bills of great length, to be reported upon at a subsequent session. Such large undertakings as the Political, Civil, and Penal Code, for example, will always be too much for a single session of the legislature, so long as the members feel bound to examine every line with their own eyes, and to judge of each with their own minds. But after such bills had been thoroughly examined and revised by a council, such as we have described, no sensible legislator would hesitate, having made up his mind upon the general principles involved, to vote in reliance upon the judgment of the council in respect to matters of detail.

The council might, perhaps, be allowed to go further, and to point out, through the governor or by direct report, such statutes as had become obsolete or incongruous with the existing state of affairs, for repeal by the legislature. Such suggestions are of a different nature from projects of new affirmative action, which we should not think it expedient for the council as such to propose, lest the jealousy of the legislature should be excited, and the usefulness of the council be marred in its primary work as a revising body.

There seems to be little doubt that a constitutional convention will be held in this State in 1867. We broach this subject thus early for the purpose of giving time for discussion, and of impressing our convictions upon the public mind at a time when its sense of wrong may awaken in it some interest in those abstract questions which are so unpalatable to business men in general, though of tremendous importance in their practical results.

BETROTHED ANEW.

THE sunlight fills the trembling air
And balmy days their guerdons bring;
The Earth again is young and fair,
And amorous with musky Spring.

The golden nurslings of the May
In splendor strew the spangled green,
And hues of tender beauty play,
Entangled where the willows lean.

Mark how the rippled currents flow:
What lustrous on the meadows lie!
And hark, the songsters come and go,
And trill between the earth and sky.

Who told us that the years had fled
Or borne afar our blissful youth?
Such joys are all about us spread,
We know the whisper was not truth.

The birds, that break from grass and grove,
Sing every carol that they sung
When first our veins were rich with love,
And May her mantle round us flung.

O fresh-lit dawn! immortal life!
O Earth's betrothal, sweet and true,
With whose delights our souls are rife
And aye their vernal vows renew!

Then, darling, walk with me this morn:
Let your brown tresses drink its sheen;
These violets, within them worn,
Of floral fays shall make you queen.

What though there comes a time of pain
When autumn winds forebode decay;
The days of love are born again,
That fabled time is far away!

And never seemed the land so fair
As now, nor birds such notes to sing,
Since first within your shining hair
I wove the blossoms of the Spring.

EDMUND C. STEDMAN.

TOWN AND COUNTRY ABROAD AND AT HOME.

THAT the Liberal party in France is strongest in the great centres of population was manifested the other day by the electoral vote of the first district of the Lower Rhine, which returned M. de Bussierre to the Corps Législatif over M. Laboulaye. In the city of Strasburg the defeated candidate received a clear majority of two-thirds of the suffrages, while in the rural localities he was unable to make even a respectable opposition. Thus, in the canton of Geispolsheim, he polled but 441 out of 4,493 votes, and nowhere else but in the suburbs more than one vote in five. The journals which had espoused the losing side accounted without difficulty for their disappointment. In the country, they said, political education was less advanced; material interests were dominant; secondary considerations, like the origin of M. Laboulaye, who did not spring from Alsace, had greater weight; and, more than all, the landed proprietors and the administration could more easily control the action of the inhabitants. And what is true in this respect of the Bas-Rhin is true also of the other departments of France, although the elections from Lille to the Pyrenees exhibit a significant increase of anti-Cesarism. And as in France, so in Europe, not excluding England, where reform is native to the large manufacturing towns, whether its object be a repeal of the corn laws or an extension of the franchise. On the Continent it is the cities which inaugurate revolution. If Berlin were Prussia, the state would not endure for a day a prime minister who overrides the constitution and a king who sanctions his lawlessness. In Italy, Florence and Turin, not Barletta, reflect public sentiment concerning the Roman question.

We ought not to be surprised that Europeans, in criticising the affairs of this country, should transfer to us the situation in which they find themselves. However widely they may err in their geographical notions, they have a general comprehension of the rank of our chief cities, and not unnaturally, perhaps inevitably, regard them as the oracles of the nation. We who live very close to that august body, the Board of Aldermen of New York, have rather a contemptuous appreciation of its character and utterances; yet when it was telegraphed abroad that the Board had approved the President's veto of the Freedmen's Bureau bill, we cannot doubt that a good many minds were deluded as to the popular leaning in the controversy to which that veto gave rise. And, still more recently, when news came that the Senate had passed again and finally the civil rights bill, in spite of the Executive, it was added as a sort of offset, that "a great popular meeting held in Washington resolved to sustain the policy of the President." In these two instances the commercial and political capitals of the United States obtained a deference to which they were by no means entitled.

Nevertheless, here as on the Continent, the real national life is in the cities. The highest activity of the people is displayed in them, and away from them is to be out of the world. They foster the best modes of education, the only learned societies, the greatest variety of amusements; the colleges pay tribute to them; their press strikes the key-note of all public discussions, and more than all else moulds public opinion. They carry to perfection the mutual contact of mind with mind, and stimulate competition to the utmost. Their opportunities attract the talents of every quarter; their necessities spur invention to its loftiest achievements, and drain the resources of a wide and ever-widening area. The growth of the largest of them proves that our civilization is not exempt from the Old World tendency to crowd together in metropolises—a tendency which we have scarcely begun to recognize, and which gives rise to such problems as model houses, underground railways, new sewerages, new piers, new parks, etc., etc. To be sure, the country has not yet sent up a cry like that which agricultural France makes heard in Paris, saying that the cities are sucking the rich pulp of the farming districts, which every year grow more barren and unattractive. It points to the superior speculative inducements of the cities, whose extravagant "improvements," involving municipal loans and lotteries, impoverish the country by withdrawing its capital. Labor follows in the wake of capital. In the ten years ending 1861, three million peasants were transformed into citizens; in fifteen years the movement affected 27 per cent. of the population and enhanced prices 39 per cent. Conscription for the annual contingent of 100,000 men to supply the army converted a large number of laborers into idlers, and created in them a distaste for rural life. On the other hand, the natural increase has not sufficed for these displacements, which are not much aggravated by emigration to foreign parts—the ten or fifteen thousand emigrants per annum being largely balanced by the accession of strangers. With the exception of a standing army, it is evident that the relation of the country to the cities does not differ greatly here from that existing in France, and that the resemblance may, hereafter, be much more complete than it is now. During the war, in fact, we endured

both a patriotic and an enforced draft on the ranks of our cultivators, so that no unfavorable condition of the parallel is wanting. But we had then, and have constantly, such a tide of immigration that our vacancies, ordinary and extraordinary, are filled and more; and, as was especially conspicuous during the past five years, our agricultural machinery is equal to the most trying depletion of hands from our fields and prairies.

How, then, is it that the liberal forces of the United States find not, of course, their leaders, but their main support, in the country? that revolutions are brought about in spite of the cities, by steadfast appeals to the public conscience that dwells outside of them? that the cities alone call in doubt the practicability of a republican form of government, and require to be ruled and restrained from without, now by a metropolitan police, now by park commissioners, now by a board of health? How did it happen that before the war the cities were almost unanimously on the side of the most evil power on the continent? We say before the war, for the statement would be untrue since that terrible dispensation. Yet, though the majority has either been diminished or become the minority, the relative distribution of the once dominant party probably remains about the same; so that a recent French tourist in America, writing of the state of feeling consequent upon the veto of the Bureau bill, wisely distrusted the noisy manifestations of the cities, and remarked: "It was not, yet known what the country people thought, attached, as they had long been [*de longue date*] to the republican polity, and generally faithful to the radicals."

The conservatism of our cities, as contrasted with the liberalism of those of despotic Europe, is to be accounted for, at bottom, by the difference in the prevailing forms of government on the one part and on the other. The paradox is one not likely to please the enemies of democracy any more than its friends; but while Prévost-Paradol complains that the vote of Strasburg is swamped in the vote of the rural cantons, and calls for a change in the mode of representation, it is the standing peril of New York State that her chief port may swamp her country towns at the polls. In other words, universal suffrage, tempered by absolutism, makes the country formidable; unmixed universal suffrage the cities. The explanation is not difficult. So long as our great national abuse clothed itself decently in republican forms, deferring to the decisions of the ballot-box, ever appealing to the letter of the Constitution, assuming the air of a victim whose rights were outraged at the moment when it was planning fresh assaults upon the liberties of the nation; so long as it was content with this rôle, it counted its adherents in proportion to the offices at its command. In the absence of palpable tyranny, it was natural that men should incline to the party which was uppermost, and which promised them political preferment; and it happened that the cities contained the most ambitious office-seekers and the best material for demagogues. Not that one found greater bigotry, or even greater ignorance, in the city than in the country—in degree. Away from the lines of travel, in places which the mail reaches infrequently, in districts too sparsely settled for good or regular schooling, exists all over the North a nearly hopeless class of illiterate, unreasoning, unconvertible "sovereigns," whose vote must ever be for retrogression or (what is the same thing) the *status quo*. But it was the peculiar lot of the cities, especially on the seaboard, to be the sieves of foreign immigration. In them the paupers, the infirm, and those whose aims and intelligence were as feeble as their means, lodged by the mere force of gravity, and could get no farther. The thrifty—one might say, considering the astounding aggregate of small savings brought to our shores by these people, the well-to-do—and those whose knowledge of a craft or of agriculture rendered them independent as to a choice of residence, moved on, sooner or later, to reinforce the industry and virtue of the country—to redeem Missouri or Texas to freedom. The dregs that remained, from time to time were sifted into the stream of our politics, till its native color was utterly lost; and the monarchist, looking with delight at the turbid overflow, exclaimed: "Behold the failure of democracy!"

Trade, too, has played here as selfish a part as it is wont everywhere. Besides the temptation to support the party of slavery for the salaries it could dispense, the system itself was considered inseparable from our commercial prosperity—a grave economical delusion, but none the less popular till the crash came. This secured the vote of Wall Street for principles which wool-growing, agricultural Vermont repudiated once and always. Cotton-spinning Lowell and General Butler have undergone conversion together. Before the rebellion both saw eye to eye, and in their sight slavery had rights and the spirit of the age had none. To that spirit, we believe, the cities need no longer be united in antagonism. Free hereafter to neutralize by every educational appliance the foreign admixture they are long doomed to experience, they may make themselves illustrious as the laboratories of mankind—the best and speediest elevators of the most degraded of our race.

SOLOMON ANDREWS'S FLYING SHIP.

WHOEVER walks down Houston street nowadays is compelled to notice on the corner of Greene Street a rough board fence of remarkable height, and so closely made as to be proof against the eyes of the most curious. If nothing else calls his attention to it, the group of vagabond boys will be enough, as they hang about the entrance and stare at a singular engraving; or perhaps, no policeman being present, furtively fling a stone, or a sharp-edged oyster shell, over the top of the wall. Within the mysterious enclosure is the flying vessel—the ship which can sail a hundred and fifty miles an hour, which easily sails dead against the wind, which discards steam and coal and engines, and for a motive-power relies on the attraction of gravitation, which is to supersede railway trains and steamboats as a means of travelling by sea and land, which can cross the ocean in less than three days; which, if you build it of metal, and that can be done without the smallest trouble, will become available not only for the conveyance of passengers, but also for the transportation of the heaviest and bulkiest merchandise. It is the aerial ship, the aerion "General Schenck," which is to do all this, which is to more than realize Dr. Darwin's predictions, which is to prove that Tennyson's airy navies grappling in the central blue are not only a possibility, but a probability, and may, at any time when governments shall choose, become a fact. Already, in New York, a company is in existence, with president and directors, and subscribed capital, and an office in Walker Street, which intends at once to fix upon routes of aerial navigation between our great cities, and construct aerial vessels for conveying passengers and freight, and which, as we have seen, has already built one ship that is now floating at anchor in Houston Street. Her, within ten days, shall we not all see as she comes sailing down town at no great distance above our heads, tacking and filling, ascending and descending, going with the wind and against it, visiting any part of the city as the helmsman may direct, and, at the end of the voyage, coming into harbor on the exact spot from which she set out?

The payment of a dollar admits you to a close inspection of this wonder. Going in from the level of the street, one finds before him the site of some building that has been utterly destroyed by fire. The rubbish has been mostly cleared away, and he descends by a flight of many steps to what was once the cellar floor. The neighbors of the burnt building still remain; so the visitor, when he gets to the bottom of the steps, is at the bottom of a great square pit, the sides of which are either lofty brick walls, or, if the walls are low at any place, the wooden fence is seen surmounting them. There is sand under foot and a strong smell of gas around, and high above, balanced in the air, the ship itself, a great buff-colored cloud, with a network of cords around it, strains at the ropes that hold it down, and casts a shadow over the sand.

She is a balloon, not round like a ball but elongated, and at each end running to a sharp point. As the ship is now lying, these beaks, her prow and stern, point toward the horizon, and it is not intended that they shall ever point up and down toward the zenith and the nadir. From end to end her length is eighty-six feet, and her diameter from side to side at the point of greatest width is forty-two feet. In shape she would look much like an Indian's bark canoe, supposing the top of the canoe to be closed as the bottom is, if it were not for a leather strap which, passing from the bow, goes underneath the vessel to the stern and then is carried along the top to the bow again. As the balloon swells against this band, there is created a longitudinal depression extending the whole length of the vessel, and like the cavity made when two cylinders are laid side by side, and this depression can be created at the captain's will. Its capacity is 66,000 cubic feet, and the material of which it is made is very heavy pongee silk. As you look up, a portrait of General Scott, in colors once gaudy but now faded, stares down from the forward part of the balloon, and on the after part there is a General McClellan, for the inventor of the flying ship, in building it, has used the material of two old army balloons, and has adapted it to its present use with characteristic ingenuity. The lower half, say, of each balloon was left whole, the upper part from zenith to equator was cut as an orange peel is cut, then, by fitting these saw-toothed ends into each other, a balloon was obtained new in shape and cheap in cost. Underneath the balloon is a narrow, wicker-work car, twelve feet long, secured by many ropes.

"Characteristic ingenuity" we said, and these are words that may well enough be applied to the man who invented the famous Hobbs' lock; who invented the lock which is used in the United States mail service; who, at the request of his oyster-selling townsmen, that they might be relieved from the yoke of the Connecticut keg-makers, invented machinery by which a Jerseyman may make his own oyster-kegs, and at the rate of a hundred a day; who has invented very many other things beside, so that even the pipe which he held in his mouth while he talked with us about the air-ship was constructed on a principle entirely new.

It is upon the shape of the vessel, he explained to us, that everything depends. Fill a round balloon with gas and it ascends, don't it? Goes up vertically. Throw out ballast, it rises higher; let gas escape, it sinks; but it has no forward motion. You've seen it *drift*, you mean; go hither and thither with the currents. It has no motion of its own except the vertical; no momentum, no motion relatively to the medium in which it floats. But now if you fill with gas a long, broad-backed, sharp-pointed balloon, a balloon so shaped that vertical motion will be very hard for it, will be greatly resisted, what will happen then? How will such a balloon go up? It will ascend, in the direction of the line of least resistance. That stands to reason; it's the only way it can go. It will go up just as you've seen a half-sheet of paper fall; you've seen it a thousand times; it falls in a slanting direction; it does not drop perpendicularly to the ground, but follows the line of least resistance for a body of that shape. This airship is so shaped that when it's started at an angle of so many degrees with the plane of the horizon to rise into the air, and the ballast is so placed as to keep her bow at the proper angle, she must necessarily rise not vertically but in a slanting direction. She keeps on rising, going forward, you see, by virtue of the slant, and goes up perhaps two miles. In going that high, she has gained so many miles horizontally—perhaps more, perhaps less, according to the wind. The wind will be sometimes with the ship, sometimes against it, and in the average there is neither gain nor loss by it. Having reached a height of two miles, say, the balloon's bow is pointed downward. That is very easily done by sliding a certain portion of ballast to a certain distance from the centre of the car, so as to give the axis of the balloon the proper inclination. Then gas is allowed to escape, and the descent begins. It will be just like the ascent, the line of least resistance will be followed, and in going down so many miles—two, for instance—so many miles of forward movement will be made. Having approached near enough to the ground, another ascent will be made, and then another descent, and so on, till by a succession of tacks, as the sailors say—only in aerial navigation the tacks will be up and down instead of being from side to side—the end of the journey will be reached.

Let the wind blow as hard as it likes; imagine, if you please, that it blows hard enough to carry a globular balloon backward, or sideways, or anyway, at the rate of fifty miles an hour, in the case of a ship balloon nothing would be easier than to guide it by the rudder, and give it an ascending motion which would carry it forward in an hour sixty miles of horizontal distance, and thus you beat the wind ten miles.

We were assured that almost any conceivable speed of upward or downward motion could be imparted to the ship, and that the utmost effect of a storm of wind would be to retard her motion and not to prevent it wholly. A tornado could hardly do that; and in general the action of wind would be so little troublesome or dangerous that it might be disregarded. It would only be necessary in boisterous voyages to expend more ballast and more gas in tacking more frequently and keeping up a greater rate of speed.

Steering? There would be no trouble about that. A drifting balloon could not be steered, but once get momentum and steering follows as a matter of course. What did Professor Henry say in his report to Stanton about the flying ship that was offered to the Government in 1864? He said: "Dr. Andrews has also fully illustrated the fact to the commission that his aerial vessel while passing through the air can be steered. This fact, however, might have been inferred as a corollary from the fact of the transmission, since the direction of a body relative to the medium through which it is moving must evidently be changed if the resistance on one side is made greater or less than that on the other."

There would be no difficulty, either, in making the passengers comfortable. It would be but a very little while before the passenger by aerion would have a sleeping berth or a state-room more luxurious, a better opportunity for getting his meals, and be in all respects better cared for, than the passenger by rail or by steamboat. No mode of travelling would be able to compare with aerial navigation in point of speed, and by and by it must be incomparably cheaper than any other method of transportation. There would be no roads to build, no tracks to lay, no lands to buy, nothing to pay for but the balloon itself and the gas to fill it. In the presence of this ardent benefactor of the race, we none of us suggested what nevertheless of course occurred to us, that in cases of accident the Aerial Navigation Company will have no bills to pay—no hush money for trifling injuries to arms and legs. All accidents will be fatal. It is true that passengers by aerion may have human relatives and ties to bind them to earth. But even in that case what surviving friends can hope success in suing these gigantic corporations? The speaker went on: the cost of the necessary gas was much greater at present than it would be hereafter. Undoubtedly a balloon could be made of copper (copper can be made nearly as thin

as gold leaf), and then the greater part of the original charge of gas would last for an indefinite period, as there would be no leakage whatever, and no gas would be lost except the quantity that might be allowed to escape in the descents. Of course it would not be possible to keep going any longer than gas and ballast hold out; but no more could a locomotive keep going any longer than fuel and water hold out. The ship would be able to stop regularly and lay in a supply of gas and sand. The cheapness of the motive power would be an immense advantage. Nothing could be cheaper than gravitation! When the model was on exhibition in Washington an army officer walked into the room and enquired, What's the motor, sir? Gravitation, sir. He turned round and walked out without saying one word. But simple and plain as the invention seemed, no invention that had ever been made would appear greater in the results of its practical application than this of the flying ship. It would revolutionize all travel and all transportation; its effects would be felt in every field of activity; indeed it was the greatest invention of the century, if not the greatest that had ever been made in the whole history of the race.

This account of the new conveyance is pretty nearly the same that the inventor will doubtless give gladly to any visitor of small knowledge in aerostation. For our own part, being in that category, we may confess that we almost half believed, and we fully hoped, that the coming trial-trip may be successful, and that this marvel may speedily go into that class of scientific miracles which daily repetition makes commonplace. The list is a long one of those romantic wonders to which, after science has killed them, science gives again a sort of galvanized life; and what finer revival of the prince's carpet could be asked than that a piece of pongee silk should carry us to Europe through the upper air?

THE POPULAR INDULGENCE OF MORAL CENSORSHIP.

LET a man set up for a judge of dress and equipage, of dinners and domestic architecture; let him put himself forward at all conspicuously as an *arbitrer elegantium* and an authority in upper-tendom, and see what a swarm of hornets he will raise about his ears! Him the daily papers, him the weekly ditto, him the illustrated monthlies, will abuse. Let him take a higher flight and attempt to communicate to the public his foreign experience in matters of art, or guide it in the appreciation of our home performances; his unpopularity will be more limited, but none the less intense. Or suppose that his tastes are literary instead of artistic, and that he exerts himself to aid in the formation of a higher standard of literary criticism; his attempts to expose ignorance and correct bad taste will be attributed to envy, self-conceit—any motive but a good one. The political student may be inclined to attribute all this to the social workings of democracy. The people, it may be said, being all equal in theory, and to a great extent equal in practice, cannot brook dictation or the appearance of dictation on any subject from one of themselves. Indeed, it has been often charged against democracy by its enemies, and sometimes admitted by its friends, that on this very account it is unfavorable to the thorough pursuit and development of any high specialty.

But if we turn our eyes to another quarter we behold an equally marked indulgence for the self-constituted lecturer. Any person that can put together passably grammatical sentences in a tolerably flowing style, may set up for a moral reformer, or at least a moral essayist. It seems to be at once the easiest and the most popular form of declamation and platitude. It seems to be quite within the province and ability of any respectable American man or woman to advise his or her fellows on the greater and the lesser ethics. Monkeys in a menagerie have been observed at feeding-time to steal one another's provender, instead of being content each with his own, causing thereby no small waste of nutriment; and, in like manner, those of our population who take an interest in ethical questions appear bent on correcting their neighbors, possibly with a corresponding waste of morals.

Now, the first thing that strikes us here is a startling inconsistency. If there is anything that requires special preparation and study, if there is anything for which we won't say an average man or woman, but a man or woman considerably above the average, taken at random, is not fit, it is lecturing on ethics. Any person, of fair natural presence and a disposition not essentially vulgar, may qualify himself for a small Pelham or amateur master of the ceremonies by a few years' residence abroad, limiting his "abroad" to a very few places. Art criticism is capable of being made something very magnificent, but the ordinary run of it does not demand any very intense course of study. If the critic has as much aptitude for art as would have sufficed to make him a respectable third or fourth-rate artist, and as much leisure as will enable him to read the standard manuals and turn himself loose for a season in some good foreign gallery, he may acquit himself toler-

ably in his vocation. Literary criticism demands something more. To make a reviewer worth the name, one should have a good liberal education and be somewhat of a scholar. Yet the warmest friends of literary criticism (and we profess to be among them) could not fairly ask more for it than that it should be put on a level with ethical. For, of a truth, ethical criticism, to possess any value, demands a very thorough and elaborate preparation on the critic's part. He need not be a theologian—perhaps, on some accounts, he is better for not being one—but he should have some (and more than a little) historical knowledge of theology. His direct subject he should have studied historically, geographically, and metaphysically. Among other little trifles of which he should be master is political economy; for there are some real and many apparent conflicts between the principles of the two sciences, and it is a nice matter to reconcile them or decide which must yield to the other. Finally, he should have a fair share of social knowledge and practical experience among various sorts of people, else will he be as likely to blunder as an engineer or mechanic who has only studied pure mathematics. A professor of *casuistry*—as some of the old European universities still call moral philosophy—ought to be one of the first men in the country; and the amateur dabbler in the business ought first to make sure that he possesses some extra qualifications for the task. Take, for instance, the extent and limits of the connection between public and private morality. Say how far there is danger to individual morals from the political corruption of this State; or the success of certain scandalous journals, a fact so difficult to account for by natural causes that we know perfectly sane and well-educated men who seriously attribute it to direct diabolical agency. These are problems calculated to tax to their utmost the learning and intellect of the student and philosopher; and it is but fair to add that our volunteer casuists generally fight shy of them. But take the pet theme of extravagance, especially female extravagance; how much rubbish is printed about it every day!

We suspect that a good deal of our lay preaching is due to emulation of the professional performances in the same field. If a minister may lecture his congregation on their duties at least once a Sunday, why may not some of the congregation try their hand on week-days? Because there are many salient differences in the two cases. First, the majority of sermons are not printed. Then the day is properly devoted to the theme. However commonplace it may seem to tell the people week after week that *virtus est bona res*, yet while there are so many ready to insinuate, if not openly to assert, that *vitium est melior res*, it is well that poor Virtue should have a day to herself. Above all, the mere position of the preacher as pastor of his flock involves the assumption that he is qualified to give them advice on ethical matters. Though his original specialty be that of theologian, yet in all well-regulated communities he has a co-ordinate (for we will not allow it to be a subordinate) specialty, that of moralist. Therefore, while a goodly part of our pulpit discourses in most denominations will always be doctrinal, it is but right that about an equal number should be moral. It is part of the preacher's business that they should be.

Do we, then, conclude that none but preachers and professors should open their mouths and their pens on moral subjects? By no means; these questions should be largely treated of in our press, but sceptically rather than didactically—in other words, by discussion rather than by homily. Any newspaper article on a moral theme, if it is not published merely as "padding," or for the less innocent purpose of making a sensation, may do good, inasmuch as it provokes argument from correspondents and contemporaries, and causes the subject to be presented in various lights. Our objection is to those essayists and lecturers who, on the strength of a little superficial smartness and plausibility of style, affect to speak *ex cathedra* on all matters coming under the broad head of morals, from the minor courtesies of life up to transcendental ethics.

Fine Arts.

THE FORTY-FIRST EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.

[SECOND NOTICE.]

MR. G. C. LAMBdin has a picture in the North Gallery, No. 196, which is very pleasant to see. It is not only the best picture by him that we have seen, it is free from faults which have disfigured others, and is good in some ways in which his work has often been deficient. It is very simple in subject: a little girl who has skated all the way home from school, and has fallen asleep in an arm-chair; she is all dressed in her red and black out-door dress, her skates hang on the arm of the chair, and her strapped books and one of her red gloves have fallen at her feet. And this little picture

very unpretending, undoubtedly a portrait, expressing no sentiment but the simplest, having sufficient technical merit to pass with credit the competitive examination of this exhibition, is a picture of a certain importance. It is a success in that it is in all respects what it was intended to be. This is much less completely true of the two other pictures by Mr. Lambdin, No. 388, "Compensation," and No. 415, "At the Front." These pictures, and especially the former, are of a sort which are nothing if not expressional. But Mr. Lambdin has chosen quiet attitude and absolutely no gesture that can speak, and he has as yet shown no power to paint an expressive face, a face full of emotion. The sentiment of "Compensation" is healthy and true enough; the same young officer who, two years ago, in a companion picture was having his sword consecrated with kisses, is at home, recovering from wounds; he sits in his invalid's chair by the open window, and looks lovingly at the young lady who kissed the sword and is now standing by the window side. It is a great deal better work than the former one. But to save such a picture from the limbo of the commonplace, there is needed either great power of conception of the scene and the characters, or else such singular technical excellence as makes Meissonier, for instance, an artist of deserved fame. The scene Mr. Lambdin has wished to paint is one wholly worth representing; but the question about the scene as represented will be whether the story is forcibly, truly, exhaustively told, as well as whether it is worth telling at all. There are myriads of modern love poems very poor, although the people who wrote them had truly loved, and were in earnest when the songs were written. There is one Browning found to write fifty, all good; one Béranger to write hundreds, all good. You may be a much better man than Béranger, and love much more purely and lastingly, and not be able to write quite so well about love. Nor is it any disgrace not to have the golden gift, nor any trouble if one is not trying too hard to get it, nor deluding himself into the belief that he has got it. All of which has this application: that Mr. Lambdin, with all his evident rightness of feeling and gentleness of nature, has hitherto wholly failed to paint truly poetical pictures, until he tried a very simple order of poetry in his story about the tired little girl, and succeeded. It is his success in this that seems to promise that he will succeed in other and higher themes. But his execution must be greatly improved, and the smeary look of his pictures once for all changed. Nothing important is gained by his present system of laying color, and much is lost. In this, indeed, as in other respects, the first-named picture is better than others. The little girl's head is painted with a certain decision not often seen in Mr. Lambdin's work; but the carved chair and the screen, which Willems would have delighted to paint accurately and minutely, Mr. Lambdin does not seem to like well enough to let us see them plainly.

Mr. W. J. Hennessy's picture, "Drifting," No. 375, affords much material for thought, and will leave his critics speculating and wondering over questions which will not be answered until next fall's or next spring's pictures come to answer them. What has he had in view in his recent work? What good thing is he seeking? We think it is doing him only justice to assume that he has some very definite end in view. This picture is unusually large for him, is a beautiful composition, very delicate in its lines, very refined in much of the drawing; it is painted almost entirely in shadowless color, all concern with the monster chiaro-scuro being abandoned; yes, Mr. Hennessy is in pursuit of something. Whether that something is attainment of real strength of color and design—perhaps in out of the way developments—or whether it is only imitation of certain tendencies of some modern European artists we might name, time only will show. Meantime "Drifting" is a very pleasant canvas to study, though hardly a finished picture, we think. No. 305, "In Memoriam," is of much less value. The larger picture was enough to have sent this year; a sufficient indication of the good things which it tells us are to come.

Mr. S. J. Guy is one of our very few figure painters of any merit, and at every exhibition we look for his pictures with hope—hope that they will give signs of steady progress and of real excellence at last. This is not always gratified. It seems, indeed, that the painters who are ahead of him now are progressing faster than he. But, as he sends only one little picture this year, and never more than two or three, all very small, it may well be that he does work of which the world knows nothing; of which, if something should be better than what he exhibits, it would not be surprising. No. 243, "The Alphabet," is not one of those pictures which are best worth study.

We do not remember pictures by Mr. M. Lander before, but his water-color drawing, "Interruption," No. 102, shows a certain rapid skill and a very unusual dexterity in the use of water-color. The subject is nothing, but it is probable that Mr. Lander can draw, and perhaps there will be more of his work to be seen hereafter.

There are, despite of the hanging committee, some representatives of that class of figure pictures which a beholder may laugh at or mourn over, as he thinks them the more amusing or discouraging. Mr. Stearns, for instance, is an academician, an officer of the Academy, as the catalogue sets forth. His picture called "The Studio," No. 261, indicates no advance beyond the stage of pupillage. There is worse work than this; there are several degrees or stages below it; but this remains wholly without value. It is accurately to be described as beginners' work. His life-size portrait with peach-tree, last year, bad as it was, was better than this. The picture is hung on the line, having fairly beaten the hanging committee, whose victory on the line this year is not complete.

Mr. Fritz Meyer has six works on exhibition; two of these are partially of figure subjects; both are worthy of severe reprobation than critical writing ought to lend itself to. The proper award for such work is simply rejection and forgetfulness, and the latter would be assured by the painter's rapidly growing disgust with his work.

Mr. G. W. Flag has touched bottom in his picture "The Suspicious Note," No. 108. Neither this nor those last before mentioned are proper subjects for criticism, but are beyond its bounds, needing, as we have said, rejection and oblivion only.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW.NATION OFFICE, Monday Evening,
May 14, 1866.

THE news from Europe to May 3 is the most alarming that we have received for some time. In two days the French funds had fallen 5 per cent., and the panic on the London Stock Exchange was the most severe that had been known since 1857. The Bank of England had advanced the rate to 7 per cent. Cotton had fallen to 14d., and in all the markets there was an eager wish to sell at any prices. Five-twenties were down to 68 to 68½; Erie to 49½ to 50; Illinois Central to 78 to 78½. It is taken for granted that so widespread an alarm must have been caused by private but well authenticated news of the probable intervention of France and Italy in the German dispute, and of the imminence of a general European war.

This country will participate less than heretofore in foreign monetary disturbances to be caused by a European war, for the reason that we are trading on a currency which is not the currency of Europe. A monetary panic in England need not involve a monetary panic here. At the same time we shall not altogether escape the effects of the European troubles. It must be expected that considerable parcels of 5 20 bonds, Erie, and other American securities will come here for sale; that the foreign enquiry for our cotton, breadstuffs, and produce will be checked; and that, in consequence, heavy shipments of gold will be made to the other side. In anticipation of these changes sterling bills have to-day advanced to 109½, and gold to 130½. Gold would rise still higher but for the apprehension of sales by Government. Mr. McCulloch is in a position to throw fifteen millions on the market in the event of a speculative movement for the rise. A further decline in cotton would seem probable, as even at present prices it cannot be shipped except at a heavy loss. Breadstuffs are not moving at all. Indeed, so disproportionately high is the price here that we have been receiving from France some flour which has paid a very fair profit to the importers.

Money continues very easy. Call loans are 4 to 5 per cent; first-class short paper, 5 to 6. No one seems to anticipate any advance in the rate of interest at present, unless the department should withdraw the deposits from the national banks. The investigation into the Merchants' National Bank, at Washington, reveals scandalous looseness in the administration of the public finances. It would seem that the heaviest deposits of public money were made after the insolvency of the bank was acknowledged.

The stock market continues very dull, but firm. New clique movements have been inaugurated in Pittsburgh, Michigan Southern, and Illinois Central. The last mentioned stock can now be imported at a profit of ten per cent., but, as the road is doing well, there is better reason for the advance than in the case of the former stocks. The Erie earnings for April show a falling off of \$385,000 as compared with last year; should the decline in traffic continue, the summer dividend will be out of the question. There is a profit of 5 per cent. on the importation of Erie, and it will probably come here in considerable amounts. This morning, on the foreign news, it fell to 72½; it has since recovered 1 per cent. of the decline. Central is dull and steady. Rock Island, which is now selling dividend off, has been as high as 96½ and as low as 94½. The stock and debt of the concern will now stand at about \$17,000,000, as against \$9,000,000 before the purchase of the Mississippi and Missouri road. Whether the earnings will increase in proportion remains to be seen. Among speculators the prevailing theory is that the ease of money is sure, sooner or later, to generate a speculation which will be quite independent of intrinsic values. In Governments, 7.30s are strong and higher.

The following table will show the course of the stock, gold, exchange, and money markets since our last issue:

	May 7.	May 10.	May 14.	Advance.	Decline.
United States Sixes of 1881.....	109	109½	109	.....	½
5-20 Bonds, old.....	102	102	101½	.....	½
5-20 Bonds of 1885.....	102	102	102	.....	.....
10-40 Bonds.....	95½	95½	96	.....	.....
7.30 Notes, second series.....	101½	101½	102½	.....	.....
New York Central.....	92½	92½	92½	.....	.....
Erie Railway.....	73½	73½	73½	.....	.....
Hudson River.....	110½	109½	109½	.....	.....
Reading Railroad.....	107½	107½	107½	.....	.....
Michigan Southern.....	78	75½	80	1½	.....
Cleveland and Pittsburgh.....	82	82½	84½	1½	.....
Chicago and North-western.....	29½	29½	28½	.....	.....
" " Preferred.....	61	60½	59	.....	1½
Chicago and Rock Island.....	125	95½ ex. d	94½	.....	1½
P., Fort Wayne, and Chicago.....	100	99½	99	.....	.....
Canton.....	58½	58½	61	2½	.....
Cumberland.....	44½	45	45½	.....	.....
Mariposa.....	13	12½	12½	.....	.....
American Gold.....	128½	129½	130½	1½
Bankers' Bills on London.....	109½	108½	108½
Call Loans.....	5	5	5

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